

My name is David Bean, and although I spent many years in radio management, I am now the business partner of singer songwriter Jesse Colin Young. Not everyone may be familiar with Jesse's name, but you've all heard his voice sing one of the most famous pop songs of all time, the one that goes "Come on people now, smile on your brother, everybody get together, try to love one another right now..." It was even in the movie Forrest Gump. But Clear Channel blacklisted that beautiful song after 9-11 on their infamous "suggestions of songs not to play" memo. I believe there's nothing more offensive to most free Americans than banning a song such as Get Together, but Clear Channel also affected my personal income when they suggested that their 1200 stations not play that song that makes money for my company when people hear it and buy it.

A much clearer example of how Clear Channel takes money out of our community is by the fact that, as a result of FCC deregulation, Clear Channel was able to combine two of our local television stations into one building and take away the jobs, the rents, and the attendant business that used to exist with two separate stations. When the FCC takes that dollar from my community in the name of deregulation and gives it to corporate giants like Clear Channel, they do not replace that dollar in the hand of the former employee now laid off, they do not replace that dollar in the hand of the landlord who now has an empty building after two stations become one. By deregulating ownership rules, the FCC continues to make corporations richer while residents of my community become unemployed and poorer. I sincerely believe that unless this deregulation is stopped, and regulation returned, the men on the FCC favoring deregulation are nothing more than robber barons serving corporate welfare and it's a fraud. A few corporations with the power to ban songs of peace control our media and steal money from our communities. The solution: Bring back those pre-1996 FCC regulations that kept our airwaves free, and supported communities, not corporations. Thank you.